

Mrs. Oscar Dahlene, December 11, 1950

Mrs. Whit Churchill and still earlier a Miss Simmons, is one of the few of the earlier members still with us. Mrs. P. P. Lester is also a member, but as she is keeping several aged women in her home she does not get to the church often. Mrs. N. C. Johnson has been active in the church until the last two or three years. I think her age is somewhere in the early eighties. She is still a mighty fine woman and was active in her interest in the church until poor health made it impossible for her to come. I don't know whether the Brewsters, Keenes and Haynes were in the church when you were here or not but they are still active. I sit rather near the front on the south side and am a sort of last rose of summer, with not too much emphasis on the rose and more on the "blooming all alone".

As you doubtless know, your mother wrote me a very beautiful letter shortly after the death of Mrs. Simons, and it was hardly a week or ten days later that I received word of her death.

The Christmas season seems a little hollow to me now although I send out cards and presents to members of my family. Blanche has three children, all married, and two grandchildren. Janet has been married many years. Her daughter is married and is completing her work for graduation at K. U. while living in Kansas City. Janet's son is now attending K. U. Dolph, who is in business with me, has two fine boys, the eldest, Dolph, Jr., who graduates from the University this spring, and John who is finishing his freshman year. Dorothea has three fine boys, the youngest about six and the oldest about thirteen. I don't know whether you knew our youngest boy, John Louis, who died at the age of thirteen in 1928. Your brother Henry occasionally visits Lawrence and it is my impression that he has done well in the book publishing business in New York. I think that Dolph sees him more or less frequently, but I see him less often.

The Lawrence National Bank Building in which your grandmother's brother, Henry Benson, was employed was torn down about two years ago and a modern building built to replace it. While there have been other changes on Massachusetts Street and business now extends to the courthouse with other business developments at 13th and at 19th, there have been no great changes on the business street.

With very best wishes and with the hope that this long letter will temporarily, at least, break your loneliness, I remain

Cordially yours,

WCS:bjh

W. C. Simons